



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450.
www.uspto.gov

[Handwritten signature]

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/611,178	07/06/2000	Jack H. Chang	UNI-001	5599

7590

07/15/2004

David B Ritchie
D'Alessandro & Ritchie
P O Box 640640
San Jose, CA 95164-0640

EXAMINER

HASHEM, LISA

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

2645

DATE MAILED: 07/15/2004

[Handwritten number 7]

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/611,178

Applicant(s)

CHANG, JACK H.

Examiner

Lisa Hashem

Art Unit

2645

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 7-6-2000.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 and 25-69 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 and 25-69 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 06 July 2000 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 6/6-4-2004.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. This office action is responsive to the amendment filed on April 29, 2004.
2. Applicant's election without traverse of claims 9-24 in Paper No. 5 is acknowledged.
3. Claims 1-8 and 25-69 are pending in this office action.

Information Disclosure Statement

4. An initialed and dated copy of Applicant's IDS form 1449, Paper No. 6, is attached to the instant office action.

Claim Objections

5. Claims 46-69 are objected to because of the following informalities: Claims 46-69 recite the limitation "the group". There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in these claims. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

6. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

7. Claims 5-8, 29-32, and 37-40 recite the limitation "the message waiting light". There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in these claims.
8. Claim 33 recites the limitation "said switched backbone". There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in this claim.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

9. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

10. Claims 1-8 and 25-69 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being clearly anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,487,278 by Skladman et al, hereinafter Skladman.

Regarding claim 1, Skladman discloses a system for providing PBX-integrated unified messaging services on a wide-area network (see Abstract; column 3, lines 8-14), comprising: a corporate communication platform (Figure 3b, 22) coupled to a switched backbone (see Figure 3a, 47), integrated with a PBX (Figure 3a, 24) via a PBX interface (Figure 3a, 52; column 3, lines 42-47; column 4, lines 9-20), and comprising a slave message mailbox cache (Figure 3a, 64; column 7, lines 49-57); and a plurality of system communication platforms coupled to said switched backbone (see Figure 3a), wherein one such system communication platform comprises a master message mailbox (e-mail server or voice mail server; column 4, lines 9-12; column 7, lines 49-57), wherein said slave message mailbox cache is synchronized with said master message mailbox.

Regarding claim 2, the system of claim 1, wherein Skladman further discloses said switched backbone is the Internet (column 6, lines 6-7).

Regarding claim 3, the system of claim 1, wherein Skladman further discloses said PBX interface is inherently managed and controlled through program control, said program control

Art Unit: 2645

established by using modules that make API calls to a programming interface, wherein said corporate communication platform can deliver a message to and receive a message from extensions defined within said PBX (column 4, lines 21-33; column 6, lines 29-34; column 7, line 57 - column 8, line 32).

Regarding claim 4, please see the rejection of the system in claim 3 to reject the system in claim 4.

Regarding claim 5, the system of claim 1, wherein Skladman further discloses said corporate communication platform can command said PBX to activate a message waiting light on a PBX user's voice terminal equipment when a message for said PBX user is transmitted from said master message mailbox to said slave mailbox cache (column 6, line 60 – column 7, line 8; column 11, line 57 – column 12, line 15).

Regarding claims 6-8, please see the rejection of the system in claim 5 to reject the system in claims 6-8.

Regarding claims 25-32, please see the rejections of the system in claims 1-8, respectively, to reject the apparatus in claims 25-32.

Regarding claim 33, Skladman discloses a method of providing PBX-integrated unified messaging services to one or more individual subscribers associated with a corporate subscriber (see Abstract; column 3, lines 8-14), comprising: integrating a corporate communication platform (Figure 3b, 22) with said corporate subscriber's PBX system (Figure 3a, 24) via a PBX interface (Figure 3a, 52; column 3, lines 42-47; column 4, lines 9-20); coupling said corporate communication platform to a switched backbone and inherently assigning a network identifier to said corporate communication platform (column 4, lines 24-30; column 8, lines 33-55); assigning

Art Unit: 2645

said corporate communication platform to be serviced by a system communication platform accessible via said switched backbone, wherein said corporate communication platform comprises a slave message mailbox cache (Figure 3a, 64; column 7, lines 49-57) synchronized with a master message mailbox (e-mail server or voice mail server; column 4, lines 9-12; column 7, lines 49-57) on said system communication platform; initializing a network mailbox on said system communication platform for each said individual subscribers (column 11, lines 27-56); and transmitting copies of all messages received at said system communication platform that correspond to each of said individual subscribers to said corporate communication platform (column 8, line 33 – column 9, line 9).

Regarding claim 34, the method of claim 33, wherein Skladman further discloses said switched backbone is the Internet (column 6, lines 6-7).

Regarding claim 35, the method of claim 33, wherein Skladman further discloses said PBX interface is managed and controlled through program control, said program control established by using modules that make API calls to a program interface, wherein said corporate communication platform can deliver a message to and receive a message from extensions defined within said PBX (column 4, lines 21-33; column 6, lines 29-34; column 7, line 57 - column 8, line 32).

Regarding claim 36, please see the rejection of the method in claim 35 to reject the method in claim 36.

Regarding claim 37, the method of claim 33, wherein Skladman further discloses said corporate communication platform can command said PBX to activate a message waiting light on a PBX user's voice terminal equipment when a message for said PBX user is transmitted from

Art Unit: 2645

said master message mailbox to said slave mailbox cache (column 6, line 60 – column 7, line 8; column 11, line 57 – column 12, line 15).

Regarding claims 38-40, please see the rejection of the method in claim 37 to reject the method in claims 38-40.

Regarding claim 41, the system of claim 1, wherein Skladman further discloses said unified messaging includes voice messaging (column 3, lines 14-16; column 3, lines 31-35; column 6, lines 35-59; see Figure 4).

Regarding claim 42, the system of claim 1, wherein Skladman further discloses said unified messaging includes voice messaging and fax messaging (column 3, lines 14-16; column 3, lines 31-35; column 6, lines 35-59; see Figure 4).

Regarding claim 43, the system of claim 1, wherein Skladman further discloses said unified messaging includes voice messaging and e-mail messaging (column 3, lines 14-16; column 3, lines 31-35; column 6, lines 35-59; see Figure 4).

Regarding claim 44, the system of claim 1, wherein Skladman further discloses said unified messaging includes voice messaging, fax messaging, and e-mail messaging (column 3, lines 14-16; column 3, lines 31-35; column 6, lines 35-59; see Figure 4).

Regarding claim 45, the system of claim 1, wherein Skladman further discloses said unified messaging includes fax messaging and e-mail messaging (column 6, lines 35-59; see Figure 4).

Regarding claim 46, the system of claim 2, wherein Skladman further discloses said PBX is inherently selected from a group consisting of analog PBXs, digital PBXs, Centrex PBXs and Internet Protocol ("IP") PBXs (column 3, lines 31-47; see Figures 3a and 7).

Conclusion

11. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure:

- U.S. Patent No. 6,233,318 by Picard et al disclose a unified messaging system that provides a multimedia mailbox; wherein the system allows a subscriber to access stored multimedia messages (e.g. voice mail, fax) through PSTN and/or a data network (e.g. the Internet or an intranet)

12. Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

Or faxed to:

(703) 872-9314 (for formal communications intended for entry)

Or call:

(703) 306-0377 (for customer service assistance)

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to: Crystal Park II, 2121 Crystal Drive, Arlington, VA, Sixth Floor (Receptionist).

13. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Lisa Hashem whose telephone number is (703) 305-4302. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:30-5:30.

Art Unit: 2645

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Fan Tsang can be reached on (703) 305-4895. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3900.

LH

lh
July 8, 2004

FAN TSANG
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Fan Tsang', written in a cursive style.